

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 remain active in this application. No amendments are currently presented and no new matter has been introduced into the application.

The Examiner has required election between the species of Group I, claims 1 - 5, and Group II, claims 6 - 14. A provisional election of the species of Group II has been made, with traverse, above. All claims are considered to be generic to and readable on both species identified by the Examiner as well as being readable on the elected species.

This requirement is respectfully traversed since it is incomplete in several respects. First of all, the requirement does not point out any mutually exclusive features between the species identified by the Examiner and thus does not *prima facie* demonstrate that independent species are presented by the claims although the claims of the respective identified species are deemed to be separately patentable. Likewise, the Examiner does not assert that the identified inventions are distinct. Second, the Examiner has not asserted any serious burden of examination in the absence of the requirement in order to support the propriety of the requirement. The requirement is also respectfully traversed in order to preserve Applicants' right to rejoinder in the event a generic claim is found to be patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for election of species is respectfully requested.

Since all requirements contained in the outstanding official action have been fully answered and shown to be in error, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration is now in order under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b) and such reconsideration is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, it is also respectfully submitted that

this application is in condition for allowance and such action is therefore respectfully requested.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0456 of International Business Machines Corporation (Burlington).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marshall M. Curtis".

Marshall M. Curtis
Reg. No. 33,138

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P. C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, Virginia 20190

(703) 787-9400
Customer Number: **46170**